

MARCH 2012

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

Portable Electronic Devices (PEDs)

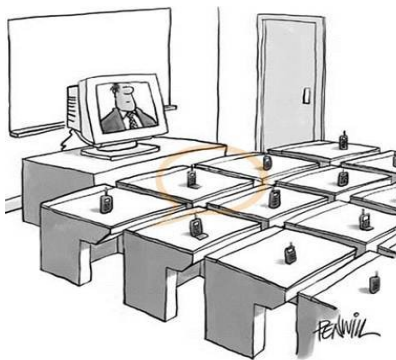
Portable electronic devices have become one of the most talked about, controversial topics in education. Events nation wide have illustrated the benefits and dangers of this emerging technology. Schools everywhere have experienced both the good and bad side of PEDs as well.

It is a fine line school districts must walk. On one side lies the incredible amount of tools and information available to enhance student learning. On the other, lie the dangers of the inappropriate content and use.

To ensure our students are protected, the question schools wrestle with is whether to limit the use of these devices or try to educate teachers, students and parents on appropriate use. Perhaps, there is a middle ground?

Regardless of which side of the debate you find yourself, one thing is certain: PEDs are here to stay, and education must find a way to deal with that reality. As much as some would like, we will never be able to return to the "good old days".

This special issue is designed to present information on both sides of the debate. Hopefully, it will help each of us make the best decision possible when it comes to our students.



cartoonresources.com

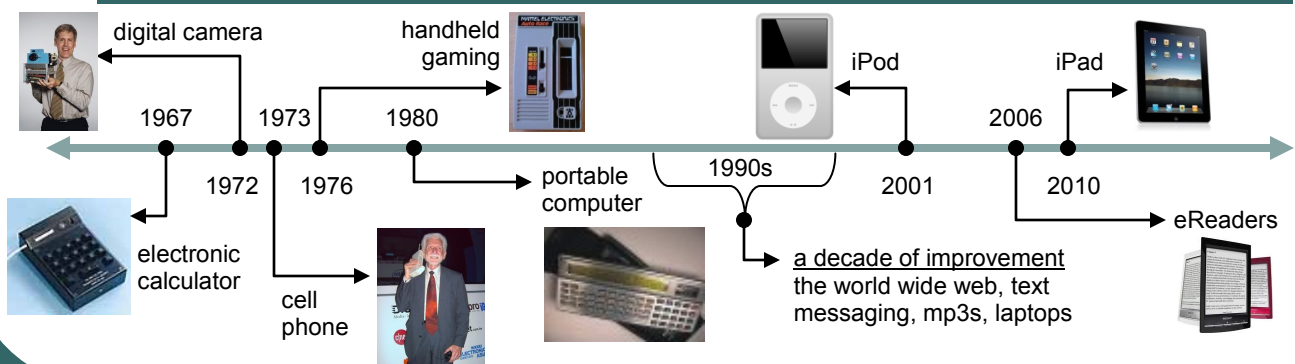
What is a PED?

No formal definition yet exists, but according to wikia.com, a PED is described as any device that is wireless and has the ability to store, receive, and process information. This description would include the following items:

- Cell phones...especially the so called 'smart phones'
- Tablets...such as the iPad or Kindle Fire
- eReaders...Kindle, Sony, Kobo, etc.
- iPods...most play video as well as audio (some even record)
- Calculators...have you seen the TI-nspires?!!!
- Video and sound recorders...small, light, easy to use
- Laptops...they seem so big and bulky now
- Even gaming devices such as PSP and Gameboy

This list is growing and changing as new technology becomes available.

PED Time Line



HAVE A QUESTION?

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Tune Up Calendar

The month of March is all about Portable Electronic Devices. It's a busy month, so we only have one scheduled Tune Up. Add the 13th to your Google calendar, and be prepared to join the PED revolution.

Upcoming Tune Ups:

March 13: PEDs
April 10: Online Learning Communities (part 1)
April 17: Online Learning Communities (part 2)
May 1: Professional Reflections

How about a PED project?

Smart Phone:

Track student fitness goals using the DailyMile smart phone app.

Tablets:

Add a video component to your pen pal unit by using Skype on an iPad.

Laptops:

Create a virtual field trip using one of many internet tools such as the one found on the Utah Education Network.

Graphing Calculators:

Use the Data Collection Sensors that integrate with the TI Nspire to explore the effects of hyperthermia in automobiles.

The CIPA Story

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) has been shaping school district policies for over a decade. It's main goal is to keep our students safe from "obscene" and "harmful" material found on the internet.

It's a big challenge, one that IT director Myron Peabody and his staff battle every day. "The main goal is to protect the students," Peabody explains, "while still allowing the teachers to access the information they need to do their jobs."

As such, RHS has two different internet filtering policies. The classroom teacher will find relatively few limitations to content that is needed for legitimate academic purposes. If there is a website that is restricted, often times the IT department will be able to unblock it, especially if the material is needed to meet an instructional objective. Student access is much more closely regulated, but again teachers

who plan ahead and take steps to work with the IT department can ensure student access to important internet tools and content.

For the most part, Peabody reports staff and students are compliant with CIPA requirements. "The largest problem we face is when teachers allow students to use their machines". It's important to understand that this is in direct violation of CIPA compliance. This applies to any device that the school provides, from laptops to tablets to smart phones.

If it's a personal device, the requirements are less clear.

While the CIPA regulations don't necessarily apply, students and staff still have a responsibility to make sure they are using their devices for appropriate educational uses only.

Although teachers sometimes get frustrated that they can't access particular websites, we all need to understand the intent and essence of CIPA compliance in order to protect our students from potential dangers. To maximize technology educationally, prepare and download files and sites in advance, and collaborate with the IT department in order to provide a cutting-edge educational experience for your students.

Protect your students:

- ~ **Elementary Internet Safety (Lesson Plan)**
- ~ **Middle School Safety (Lots of great info)**
- ~ **High School Safety (All sorts of stuff)**
- ~ **College Internet Safety (Good advice)**